Mrs. Ross

The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

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J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

JAPANESE CHILDREN WASH AND DISINFECT HANDS BEFORE ENTERING THE DIET LIBRARY

Athirst for knowledge and intent on cleanliness, the Japanese purify their hands before touching books. This library in Tokyo corresponds to the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. Agreements between the United States and Japan in 1951 brought about the Japanese peace treaty and a security pact allowing American troops to remain in the Far East country (Bulletin No. 5).

Bulletin No. 1, January 21, 1952

Orinoco Cuts Jungle Path to Venezuela's Iron

ENGINEERS in Venezuela are ready to bring a mountain through a jungle and across a sea to the United States.

Soon, two of the largest dredges in the western hemisphere will begin gnawing their way up the Orinoco River. They will deepen the channel so that in two years giant ocean-going ore ships nearly as big as the battleship *Missouri* may churn 170 miles upriver through jungle-walled wilderness to bring out the brick-red treasure of Cerro Bolívar, Venezuela's mountain of iron.

For hungry United States blast furnaces, the continent-piercing waterway will bring closer a tremendous iron-ore reserve. One of the world's richest deposits, Cerro Bolívar lies in a wild region in northern South America that four years ago was virtually unmapped and uninhabited.

Iron District Lies Between Savanna and Jungle

Between the Andes and the Atlantic, sweeping nearly the entire breadth of Venezuela, are the flat Orinoco *llanos* (plains), covered with wiry grass and dotted by scrubby trees. On their southeast flank, the savanna rises in broken mesas and low hills to the *Gran Sabana*, great jungle of the Guiana highlands (illustration, next page); northeast, it merges into the mangrove-choked swamps of the Orinoco delta.

Venezuela's iron district lies on the fringe between savanna and jungle. Just east of the Caroní River, tributary of the Orinoco, is the Bethlehem Steel Corporation's mine, El Pao, which already sends iron ore to Baltimore, shipping it down the river in shallow-draft barges.

Cerro Bolívar, west of the Caroní, is a prominent hill about six miles long, rising 1,800 feet above the plain and 2,018 feet above sea level. The entire top of the mountain is formed of high-grade ore.

Ore to Reach Ocean at Trinidad

With better than half a billion tons of ore already proved, the Orinoco Mining Company, a United States Steel Corporation subsidiary, plans to slice off Cerro Bolívar's crest in 35- to 50-foot horizontal cuts. This open-pit mine will one day be as large as the yawning Hull-Rust-Mahoning pit, champion of Minnesota's Mesabi Range. It will send some 10,000,000 tons of ore a year to United States steel mills before 1960.

Ore will move from the mine to the junction of the Caroní and Orinoco by standard-gauge railroad, traveling about 90 miles to a riverside loading port named Puerto Ordaz. From there it will follow the ship channel down the Orinoco and its Macareo delta branch to the Gulf of Paria west of the British island of Trinidad.

Below San Felíx on the Orinoco, port for Venezuela's centuries-old gold fields, the ore ships will pass two ancient Spanish forts atop rocky heights. These are Los Castillos, which Sir Walter Raleigh, seeking the legendary El Dorado, captured in 1618. The fracas cost the English adventurer his head when he returned to England.

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B. ANTHONY STEWART

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 8)

BESIDE THE THAMES RISE THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, HEART OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, WHERE A 1951 GOVERNMENT CHANGE PUT WINSTON CHURCHILL BACK IN POWER

Bulletin No. 2, January 21, 1952

Libya: New Kingdom on an Ancient Shore

ITS birth almost coinciding with the advent of the new year, Libya on December 24, 1951, became the world's newest independent nation. The fledgling Kingdom of Libya is Africa's largest independent country not associated with colonial empires.

Joining Egypt, Ethiopia, and Liberia in free status in Africa, the Libyan nation came into being when the final powers of government over a vast sand-swept slice of north Africa were turned over by British and French administrators to a new federal monarchy.

Was Prewar Italian Colony

Three provinces—Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and the Fezzan—make up the domain of Libya's King Sayyid Mohammed Idris el Mahdi el Senussi, popularly known as King Idris I. He was the former Emir of Cyrenaica and will rule the new nation from two capitals, Bengasi and Tripoli.

Libya was the pride of Mussolini's African empire. It saw bitter seesaw fighting in World War II. Then the United Nations stepped in.

Libya's 800-mile width separates Egypt and Tunisia along the blue mid-Mediterranean. Its boundaries wedge deep into the Sahara, cutting a slice of 697,358 square miles—nearly the size of England, France, Turkey, and Italy put together, countries recently ruling all or parts of Libya.

Scattered across wind-scoured wastes, concentrated in green-ringed oases and ancient-modern cities, live slightly more than 1,000,000 people. Population estimates in 1950 gave Tripolitania about 800,000 inhabitants; Cyrenaica, about 300,000; the huge desert Fezzan, about 50,000.

Irrigated Coast and Waterless Interior

Coastal Tripolitania is the most fertile region. Water from steep slopes of the Gebel Nefusa flows just under the sand on its way to the sea. Rising in oases or tapped wells, it irrigates grainfields, orange, fig, and olive groves, and the date palm—north Africa's trademark.

In the mountains live farmers and herdsmen in man-made caves—huge pits 30 feet deep and 40 to 50 feet across. Beyond is the Hamada el Homra—red desert—a dry, rocky plateau, swept and polished by winds.

Over the rest of Libya roam the desert tribes, descendants of ancient civilizations, members of the powerful and proud Moslem confraternity of the Senussi. From the Fezzan's famed Sea of Worms, inhabited by tiny golden-hued brine shrimp, to the oasis of Giarabub in eastern Cyrenaica's Libyan Desert, they tend their herds, farm their oasis plots, and engage in caravan trade as old as history (illustration, next page).

Today the desert reaches to the sea in Libya. But once there were great forests on the northern coast, roamed by elephants and other beasts. Through the forests wound caravans from the unknown interior, bringing ivory and gold and ostrich feathers for the merchants of Phoenicia, who set up trading posts on the seacoast 3,500 years ago.

Greeks followed Phoenicians. Warriors of Carthage ruled from the west. Rome built cities that still stand in ruins in Libyan sands. Vandals from the Baltic succeeded the Romans. Arabs invaded from the east.

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Hemming in the delta's twisting waterways, from this point to the sea, is one of the most impenetrable jungles on earth. It is inhabited only by Guarauno (Warrau) Indians, who build their rude palm-thatched huts on piles along the water's edge.

From luxuriant undergrowth flame thousands of tropical flowers. Red howler monkeys swing screaming from trees. Orchids bloom in treetops, while caymans—Venezuela's alligators—thrash the gunmetal water.

From the mouth of the Macareo into the Gulf of Paria, ore ships will pass through Boca de la Sierpe—the Serpent's Mouth—a strait the United States Army guarded during World War II. Steaming north, they will move into the Caribbean Sea through the Dragon's Mouths (Bocas del Dragon). Columbus named these straits in 1498.

NOTE: Venezuela is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of South America. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Search for the Scarlet Ibis in Venezuela," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1950; "Jungle Journey to the World's Highest Waterfall," November, 1949; and "I Kept House in a Jungle," January, 1939. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; and $2.00, 1912-1929. Earlier issues, when available, varied prices.)*; see also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 19, 1951, "Maracaibo Gave Venezuela Name and Fortune"; and "Venezuela May Prove Land of Hope for DP's," February 20, 1950.

RUTH ROBERTSON

INDIANS IN VENEZUELA'S WILDS SALVAGED FOR THEIR HUT A SEAT FROM A WRECKED PLANE

Rotterdam Works Its Way out of War's Ruins

THE postwar revival of Rotterdam, in the Netherlands province of South Holland, is an inspiring example of a city's determination to rise from the wreckage of war to its former greatness.

The German bombing that leveled the center of the great port city on May 14, 1940—three hours after negotiations for surrender of the city had begun—was one of the horrors of the early days of World War II. When they retreated in 1944, the Germans added to their earlier vandalism by systematically destroying the port. They burned warehouses, destroyed piers, and sank ships in the harbor.

Shrinking Rhine Commerce Is Serious Problem

The Germans reduced such harbor equipment as cranes, loading barges, floating grain unloaders, and floating drydocks to masses of broken concrete and twisted steel. Today most of the damage has been repaired. Rotterdam now has new facilities, more modern and in some cases more numerous than those the Germans destroyed.

However, after its restoration the city faced the serious problem of finding use for its revived port. Rotterdam stands near the mouth of the Rhine and before the war a great part of its traffic was transshipment of cargo which came down that river. In 1938, the last year before the outbreak of the war, Rhine cargo in the port totaled 32,000,000 tons. Now it has shrunk to 14,000,000.

The city faced this problem with as much determination as it had the war destruction. It looked for and found other trade. Inducements to oil companies and expansion of facilities increased Rotterdam's transshipment of oil from 3,000,000 tons annually before the war to 9,000,000 tons in 1950. Gains also were made in general cargo, so that the port now handles nearly as great a tonnage as it did before the war and aims for new records.

Land Becomes Sea Again

Rotterdam, like a large part of the rest of the Netherlands, is at or below sea level. Dikes keep back the sea. Much of the modern city was built on polders, land recovered from the ocean.

But if Rotterdam has taken land from the sea, it also has returned it. An area which once was the polders of Plompert and Robbenoord now is covered by the Waalhaven, largest dock basin in the world. The two districts were sacrificed to the water to make a larger port area.

Now a city with a population of more than 675,000, Rotterdam has caused the disappearance of numerous villages by including them within its own boundaries as it grew. Some of these villages are older than Rotterdam, which began in the 12th century as a tiny community on a dike along the Rotte. This river, now canalized, is one of the numerous streams flowing into the network that forms the mouths of the Rhine and the Maas (Meuse).

The rebuilding of Rotterdam is only one of the miracles of reconstruction achieved by the Netherlanders since the end of the war. A great deal

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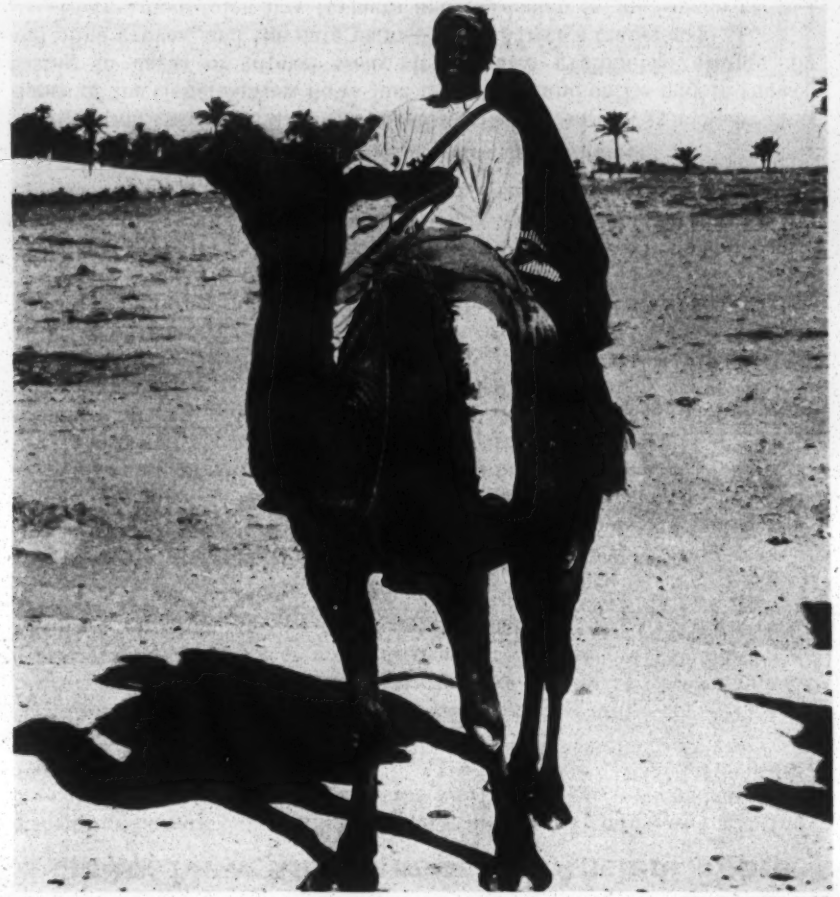
In the centuries that followed, Moslem potentates of the Barbary Coast exacted pirate tribute from many of the nations of Europe. Tripoli fought a war with the United States (1801-05) which made Stephen Decatur and the infant United States Navy known around the world, and gave the Marines their phrase, "the shores of Tripoli."

Italy took Libya from the disintegrating Ottoman Empire in 1911 and 1912. Later, fascists undertook its colonization and modernization. The colony lasted little more than a decade—until the British Eighth Army moved west from El Alamein.

NOTE: Libya is shown on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "Red Cross Girl Overseas," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1944; "Americans on the Barbary Coast," July, 1943; "Old-New Battlegrounds of Egypt and Libia," December, 1940; and "Cirenaica, Eastern Wing of Italian Libia," June, 1930.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 23, 1951, "Libya, a New Kingdom, Flies a New Flag"; "Italian Libia and Somaliland to Be Free," December 12, 1949; and "Fighting Senussi of Cirenaica Get Pledge," April 4, 1949.



HARRIET CHALMERS ADAMS

A HAUGHTY CAMEL, NOSE IN AIR, CARRIES A BEDOUIN COUPLE TO MARKET IN LIBYA

Bulletin No. 4, January 21, 1952

Pictures and Maps Improve U. S. Education

FULL-COLOR pictures, the best in maps, batteries of educational films, recordings, radio, and television combine with profusely illustrated textbooks to bring the world to United States classrooms this school year of 1951-52. They are part of the public's $6,500,000 investment in modern education.

The teaching practices and tools for today's 23,000,000 elementary- and high-school pupils are a far cry from the dry, unillustrated type of learning presented to students a century and more ago.

Early Geographies Vague

The three R's, "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic," were a simple matter compared with the luxury of today's secondary-school curriculum that may run the gamut of subjects from aeronautics to zoogeography.

Geography was an early addition and a generally accepted course by 1827. Without benefit of films, radio, or color-illustrated texts to vitalize information, however, geography teaching was often vague, generalized, or inaccurate.

Foreign countries, not yet "neighbors," were remote places in a hazy realm. China, Japan, and Russia each rated a single paragraph in one early volume. But the "Garden of Eden, called Paradise," presented in a lengthy page and a half, was firmly located in the southwest part of Asia near the rivers Tigris and Euphrates and was credited as man's first horticultural experiment.

When it came to the axis of the earth, one geographer admitted only that the earth was "supposed" to turn around on its axis once every twenty-four hours.

Maps were lacking in the early geographies. *A Compendium of Geography* offered, without maps or pictures for illustration, the information that "Boston, the capital of Massachusetts and New England, is situated at the bottom of Massachusetts Bay." This work was published in Dublin, Ireland.

Old Maps Full of Blank Spaces

Bearing little resemblance to the ten-color wall maps and charts seen in schools and libraries today (illustration, next page), a *School Atlas of 1835* showed the United States with the area west of the Mississippi River largely blank except for the sweeping notation that "This area is traversed by herds of buffaloes and wild horses and is inhabited by roving tribes of Indians."

For several decades after the American Revolution, textbooks were local publications. Many were so identified; for instance, the Boston Readers, the New York State Readers, and the Vermont Spelling Book. Others gave the author the title spot: the McGuffey Readers, and *Mrs. Stowe's First Geography*. Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1855, four years after her best-selling *Uncle Tom's Cabin* rolled off the press, this was said to be the first geography text compiled especially for children.

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of the lovely island of Walcheren was flooded with sea water when the Allies were forced to bomb its dikes to deluge the occupying Germans in October, 1944. A few months later, 50,000 acres of Wieringermeer Polder, reclaimed from the IJsel Meer (formerly the Zuider Zee), were flooded by retreating Germans.

Energetic and resourceful Netherlands engineering and labor, aided by Marshall-Plan materials and dollars, rebuilt the dikes of Walcheren. New processes speeded recovery of the soil from salt-water damage. Because the IJsel Meer is protected by dikes and is not as salty as the sea, Wieringermeer Polder was quickly restored.

NOTE: The Netherlands is shown on the Society's map of Western Europe.

For additional information on the Netherlands, see "Mid-Century Holland Builds Her Future," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1950; "Mending Dikes in the Netherlands" (20 photographs), December, 1946; "Holland Rises from War and Water," February, 1946; "Low Countries Await Liberation," August, 1944; and "Behind Netherlands Sea Ramparts," February, 1940.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 30, 1951, "Storybook Holland Lures Spring Visitors."

DE SPAARNESTAD—PIX

FROM SEA AND RHINELAND RIVERS, SHIPS LARGE AND SMALL CROWD ROTTERDAM'S NEW HARBOR

Restored from its war devastation by the energy and determination typical of Netherlanders, and aided by Marshall-Plan steel, Rotterdam harbor resumes its place as one of Europe's chief ports.

Bulletin No. 5, January 21, 1952

World Summary of 1951 Government Changes

THE world witnessed a full share of government changes and international agreements during 1951. Diplomats and negotiators toiled longer and in greater number than ever before. As one result, Japan (illustration, cover) stands at the threshold of restored sovereignty by virtue of the peace treaty signed September 8 at San Francisco by 48 non-communist nations. A defense agreement between the United States and Japan provides for American forces to remain in Japan.

In Korea, the ground position of United Nations forces in the 18-months-old fighting war improved from an adverse state at the year's start. Truce talks, carried on falteringly through the second half of the year, produced a 150-mile potential truce line along the ground front as of November 27.

Asia's Troubles Widespread

Guerrilla and terrorist tactics were effectively employed in 1951 by communist minorities in the Far East—notably in Indochina, the Philippines (illustration, next page), and Malaya. In Thailand's capital, military leaders seized the government late in November, effecting a constitutional change. The young king, returning from a long stay in Switzerland, expressed willingness to cooperate.

Northwestward in Tibet, the 1950 invaders from communist China further entrenched themselves. Nepal, on Tibet's southern border, late in 1951 ended its unique system of hereditary prime ministers when its king became king in fact by appointing a commoner as his prime minister.

The Near East made news. Iran forced the British out of its rich oil industry at heavy economic loss to both Iran and Great Britain. Great Britain and Yemen fixed the line between Yemen and the British Aden Protectorate at the southernmost tip of the Arabian peninsula. Jordan's assassinated king was succeeded by his son Talal. A Syrian army leader assumed executive authority in December following the resignation of the elderly president of the state.

Europe Calm amid Problems

Egypt abrogated its long-term treaties with the British and officially declared its intention of forcing the latter out of the Suez Canal zone and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The British stood on their treaty rights, and incidents of violence brought relations to a low ebb. Elsewhere in Africa, Nigeria gained a new constitution increasing its degree of self-government as a British colony, and Libya attained complete independence.

Europe, in contrast to Asia, witnessed little political violence in 1951 despite its welter of problems. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization in its third year moved slowly toward its basic goal of building security against communist aggression for the free nations of the North Atlantic and Western European area. Progress of the 12-nation group appeared largely dependent on United States support in money, materials, and equipment.

The year brought no peace treaties for Germany and Austria, although

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The blue-backed "speller" of Noah Webster, printed in 1829, has the distinction of being the most popular textbook ever published in the United States. Spelling bees swept the country in the 1850's and '60's, and helped to boost its sale to 1,000,000 copies a year. Approximately 75,000,000 copies have been sold.

NOTE: For further information on maps and map making refer to listings under "Map Articles" and "Map Making" in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine* in your school or public library.

B. ANTHONY STEWART

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS USE PICTORIAL MAPS TO STUDY BOTH ART AND GEOGRAPHY

Such decorative charts are descended from early maps on which elephants, sea monsters, and wind-creating cherubs covered gaps in the cartographer's knowledge. Today they have all the old interest, plus being geographically correct. These pupils work with the National Geographic Society's decorated maps of the British Isles, Reaches of the Nation's Capital, and Reaches of New York City.

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a "peace contract" between western countries and the Federal Republic of Germany (Western Germany) was under negotiation. Western Germany in May was raised from associate to active membership in the Council of Europe.

Great Britain's voters in a national election held October 25 discarded the six-year-old Attlee Labor government, returning the Conservatives and Winston Churchill to power by a narrow, 18-seat margin (illustration, inside cover). Belgium's prince royal became King Baudouin I at Brussels on July 17, following formal abdication by his father, Leopold II, earlier in the day.

The urge for security found expression in Central America, where five republics—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua—set up the San Salvador Charter, for mutual benefit in economic, cultural, and other lines.

Neighboring Panama's president was impeached by the republic's national assembly in May for reverting to the 1941 constitution giving him dictatorial powers and ignoring the one adopted in 1946. The vice-president took over the office.

Uruguay's chamber of deputies amended the republic's constitution to provide for a striking change in form of government, approved December 16. On March 1, 1952, the office of president will be abolished and a nine-man council, patterned on Swiss lines, will take over the administration. The president is expected to become federal council chairman.

FENNO JACOBS FROM THREE LIONS

SERVANTS BASK IN THE PATIO OF A MANILA HOME BEFORE WORLD WAR II BOMBS FELL